

Man beaten to death over theft allegation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A man was allegedly beaten to death by a group of people in Dhaka's Shyampur on Sunday night after they accused him of attempting to steal construction rods.

The victim was identified as Abdur Rahim, 35, according to police.

The incident occurred around 10:30pm inside the BIWTA project area near Postogola Shmashan Ghat.

Locals captured Rahim on suspicion of theft and beat him up, said Shyampur Police Station Sub-inspector Md Shah Alam.

Police reached the scene and found Rahim critically injured. He was taken to Dhaka Medical College Hospital, where he succumbed to his injuries around 5:30am yesterday, he said.

The SI said authorities are working to confirm his address. His body has been kept at the DMCH morgue for autopsy. "An investigation is underway," the SI added.



Scores of low-income families queue behind a TCB truck in the capital's Shahbagh area to purchase essentials for Ramadan yesterday. With commodity prices soaring, they often have to wait from early morning to buy items such as lentils, oil, sugar and dates. PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

All publishers to join

FROM PAGE 3

After these decisions, the lottery for stall allocation was held on Sunday night.

Bangla Academy has announced that Prime Minister Tarique Rahman will inaugurate the fair at 2:00pm on February 26. This will mark his first major public event since assuming office.

Traditionally, Bangla Academy organises the Amar Ekushey Book Fair from February 1 every year. However, due to security concerns surrounding the February 12 parliamentary election, the academy had initially decided to advance the fair to December.

That move faced opposition from a section of publishers, as well as more than 30 social and cultural organisations, who demanded that the fair be held in the language month in keeping with tradition.

As a result, authorities withdrew the December plan. After the election and formation of the government, February 20 was set as the new start date.

However, with Ramadan already underway by then, a large section of publishers urged that the fair be postponed until after Eid-ul-Fitr, citing fears of low attendance and financial risks.

Bangla Academy remained firm on its decision. The fair was later deferred by five days to February 25 before the final decision was made on Sunday to begin on February 26.

Yesterday morning, Prokashok Oikya held a press conference at Jatuya Press Club, announcing its

reversal of the boycott.

Mahrukh Mohiuddin, managing director of UPL, said, "Publishers initially wanted the fair to be held after Eid, considering practical realities, but the interim government did not respond. After the new government took office, the cultural affairs minister and state minister held discussions with publishers. The publishers presented three conditions, and the government assured their fulfilment. Subsequently, more than 200 publishers submitted applications on the 19th of this month."

"In the interest of equal rights for all publishers, Prokashok Oikya decided not to take any pavilion and demanded that no one else be given one either. When we saw that pavilions were not being dismantled and our conditions were not being met, we announced our withdrawal. However, following a sincere understanding reached on Sunday night among the Ministry of Cultural Affairs, Bangla Academy, and the Bangladesh Publishers and Booksellers Association (BAPUS), the government agreed to our conditions. Therefore, Prokashok Oikya is now participating in the fair," she added.

Selim Reza, member secretary of the Book Fair Management Committee, told The Daily Star, "We are happy that all publishers are participating in this year's fair. We hope it will be held in a festive atmosphere with everyone's involvement."

He also said more than 500 publishing houses are participating in this year's fair.

4 of family burnt in 'gas leak' fire

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Four members of a family, including a three-year-old child, sustained burn injuries in a suspected gas leak fire at a rented flat in Dhaka's Rayerbazar early yesterday.

The incident occurred around 3:45am in a ground-floor apartment of a six-storey building near Mukti Cinema Hall. The injured were taken to the National Institute of Burn and Plastic Surgery.

The victims were identified as Sheikh Noman, 35; his wife Pinky Akter, 32; their son Sanaaf Sheikh Maiyan, 3; and Noman's brother-in-law Riad Hasan Opu, 23.

SEE PAGE 5 COL 1

President accepts resignations of justices Mamnoon, Naima

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

President Mohammed Shahabuddin has accepted the resignation letters of High Court judges Mamnoon Rahman and Naima Haider.

The law ministry issued two separate gazette notifications to this effect yesterday.

According to the notifications, Justice Mamnoon Rahman and Justice Naima Haider submitted their resignations through signed letters addressed to the

president in accordance with Article 96(8) of the constitution. The president has approved them.

Justice Mamnoon Rahman, who had been on leave for about a year, tendered his resignation on February 2 citing personal reasons. He sent his resignation from Canada via email to the Supreme Court registrar general and the Ministry of Law.

Justice Naima Haider submitted her resignation on February 9.

Jamaat, NCP slam 6 admin appointments

FROM PAGE 3

As the first step, the 13th parliamentary election and a referendum were held, he said.

Porwar said the public expected the next step to be the election of representatives to local government bodies through a democratic process.

The statement said the Election Commission had given positive indications

about holding local government polls. In this context, appointing ruling party office-bearers as administrators contradicts public expectations.

Porwar described the move as morally unacceptable and a deception of the people.

He said it has created suspicion that the decision may be part of a plan to delay local government elections and could

pave the way for another "engineered election".

He demanded the cancellation of the appointments and the immediate announcement of election schedules for city corporations and all other local government tiers.

Meanwhile, National Citizen Party (NCP) spokesperson Asif Mahmud Shojib Bhuiyan alleged that the ruling

party is reluctant to contest city polls due to poor vote prospects and is instead installing unelected mayors nationwide.

In a post on his verified Facebook page, Asif Mahmud said the ruling party, which had repeatedly criticised the interim government as unelected, is now itself fielding unelected mayors across the country.

Ziaul Ahsan was 'beyond my control'

FROM PAGE 3

Ziaul is accused of a crime against humanity case involving the enforced disappearance and killing of 104 people.

Iqbal also said that during his tenure as army chief from 2012 to 2015, he did not issue any directive to investigate Ziaul.

Although he claimed to have tried to bring Ziaul back to the Bangladesh Army, he could not produce documentary evidence, saying official records are routinely destroyed after a

certain period.

He admitted that he neither issued written orders nor personally summoned Ziaul. "He came to meet me once or twice," Iqbal said, adding that he never called him to his office.

"I do not recall whether any intelligence or service records mentioned Ziaul as a serial killer, or whether any army office maintained such records," he added.

Replying to another query, Iqbal acknowledged that he was appointed army chief superseding his

seniors, but said the decision considered factors beyond seniority, including staff college performance and other professional criteria.

He also alleged that DMI Jaglul was then transferred against his will due to Ziaul's influence.

When asked by defence counsel Aminul to mention the date of Jaglul's posting, Iqbal said he could not recall. "Sometimes I forget my date of birth," he remarked.

The tribunal fixed March 1 for continuation of the cross-examination.

11th DEATH ANNIVERSARY OF MD. RAFIUDDIN (BABLU)



Today the 24th February is the 11th death anniversary of late Md. Rafiuddin (Bablu), Managing Director of Modhumita Group and youngest son of late Md. Sirajuddin founder of Modhumita Group.

Though he is not in this world he lives in our hearts, in our minds and in our memory.

All friends relatives and well wishers are requested to pray for salvation of the departed soul.

All Members of Modhumita Family

পুনঃ দরপত্র আহ্বান বিজ্ঞপ্তি

প্রতিষ্ঠানের নাম : ময়মনসিংহ গার্লস ক্যাডেট কলেজ।
সরবরাহে কাজের বিবরণ : কাজের শিরোনাম

ক্রম নং	কাজের শিরোনাম
১	ক্যাডেট মেসে মাছ সরবরাহ

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আইএসপিআর/সেনা/১৬৩

ভারপ্রাপ্ত অধ্যক্ষ
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অ-দাবীকৃত (unclaimed) ডিভিডেন্ড গ্রহণ সংক্রান্ত বিজ্ঞপ্তি

বাংলাদেশ সিকিউরিটিজ এন্ড এক্সচেঞ্জ কমিশন (বিএসইসি) এর নির্দেশনা মোতাবেক পাওয়ার গ্রিড বাংলাদেশ পিএলসি এর সম্মানিত শেয়ারহোল্ডারগণের মধ্যে যেসকল ব্যক্তি/প্রতিষ্ঠান ২০২১-২০২২ অর্থবছরের প্রাপ্য ডিভিডেন্ড গ্রহণ করেননি, তাদের প্রয়োজনীয় প্রমাণকসহ আগামী ২৪ মার্চ, ২০২৬খি: তারিখের মধ্যে কোম্পানি সচিবালয়/শেয়ার শাখা, গ্রিড ভবন, ৩য় তলা, এডিনিউ-৩, জহুরুল ইসলাম সিটি, আফতাবনগর, বাড্ডা, ঢাকা-১২১২ ঠিকানায় যোগাযোগ করার জন্য বিনীতভাবে অনুরোধ করা যাচ্ছে। এ সময়ের মধ্যে যেসকল শেয়ারহোল্ডারগণ নিজ নিজ অ-দাবীকৃত/অ-বিলকৃত/অ-নিষ্পন্ন ডিভিডেন্ডের টাকা গ্রহণ করবেন না তাদের প্রাপ্য ডিভিডেন্ডের অর্থ বিএসইসি'র নির্দেশনা মোতাবেক ক্যাপিটাল মার্কেট স্ট্যাভিলাইজেশন ফান্ড (সিএমএসএফ)-এ স্থানান্তর করা হবে।

নির্দেশক্রমে,
মোঃ জাহাঙ্গীর আজাদ
কোম্পানি সচিব

Sovereignty, mutual

FROM PAGE 3

China, Saudi Arabia and Pakistan called on the foreign minister and state minister for foreign affairs, Shama Obaed Islam.

Khalilur said, based on discussions with various ambassadors, he is confident that Bangladesh will be able to pursue a dynamic foreign policy in the coming days.

PAUL KAPUR TO VISIT DHAKA EARLY MARCH
US Assistant Secretary for South and Central Asia Paul Kapur will visit Bangladesh in early March, a matter discussed when the US envoy called on Khalilur.

This would be the first high-level visit by any US official after the formation of the new government and comes at a time when there are confusions about the reciprocal trade deal signed by the two countries on February 9.

The US Supreme Court last Friday cancelled the tariffs imposed by Trump, who, however, later announced a 15 percent tariff.

During the meeting, both sides underscored the longstanding partnership built on mutual respect, shared democratic values and a commitment to peace and development, a ministry statement said.

They reviewed key areas of cooperation, including trade, investment, defence and security, development and immigration.

EU FOR CONTINUING REFORMS

EU Ambassador Michael Miller said they look forward to the new government continuing reforms, including in the areas of the judiciary, commercial courts and migration management, launched under the interim government.

He said the EU looks to explore the full potential of EU-Bangladesh relations and begin a new chapter, describing the EU as Bangladesh's most reliable partner in terms of trade, investment and development.

"It is also a very significant political partner of the new government," he said.

Khalilur reiterated the government's commitment to democratic consolidation, rule of law and good governance.

The two sides exchanged views on the possibility of beginning negotiations toward a comprehensive

Bangladesh EU Free Trade Agreement.

CHINESE ENVOY MEETS PM

Chinese Ambassador Yao Wen yesterday paid a courtesy call on Prime Minister Tarique Rahman at the Bangladesh Secretariat and assured China's continued cooperation to safeguard Bangladesh's sovereignty, national unity, stability, independence and territorial integrity and to oppose foreign interference.

The two sides discussed Bangladesh-China relations, the Rohingya crisis and international and regional issues of common interest.

Ambassador Yao said China is prepared to carry forward the traditional friendship, strengthen political mutual trust and deepen comprehensive pragmatic cooperation with the Bangladeshi side, a Chinese embassy statement said.

Tarique said Bangladesh firmly adheres to the one-China principle, upholds the tradition of friendship with China and is willing to work with China to deepen cooperation.

Meanwhile, State Minister for Foreign Affairs Shama Obaed Islam reaffirmed Bangladesh's unwavering support for the Saarc process and its commitment to working with member states to achieve the shared vision of peace, stability and prosperity in South Asia.

She made the comment when Saarc Secretary General Golam Sarwar called on her at the foreign ministry yesterday.

Local govt polls

FROM PAGE 3

priority would be given to those who are closely connected to people and actively engaged in party activities.

Responding to another question, he said, "Awami League offices are being opened, which we did not want. Legally, their activities are considered banned, and that will be upheld."

This was Fakhrul's first visit to BNP's Nayapaltna central office since the party secured a sweeping victory in the 13th parliamentary election held on February 12.

Party leaders and activists welcomed him with flowers at the main gate.

After staying at the office for about 45 minutes, Fakhrul left for the Secretariat.

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VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

The Delegation of the European Union to Bangladesh is looking for a suitable candidate for the function of "Administrative Assistant".

The full job description, job requirements and application guidelines (how to apply) can be found on our website: <https://bit.ly/JobsatEU>

The deadline for receiving applications is **Tuesday, 31 March 2026 at 16:00 hours.**

Please note that only electronic applications received within the deadline will be accepted. Paper and late applications will be disregarded.

Only short listed candidates will be contacted.

Any form of persuasion, telephone call, or other form of contact during the selection process will automatically disqualify the applicant.

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Invitation for e-Tender

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<https://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of following goods:

SL No.	Tender ID	Invitation Reference No.	Tender Description	Tender Closing Date & Time
01	1232790	JB/IT-Proc-47/OTM/LED Video Wall/2025	Tender for Procurement of LED Video Wall (Supply, Installation & Commissioning) following Open Tendering Method.	12.03.2026 12.30 PM

This is an online Tender, where only e-Tenders will be accepted in the national e-GP portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted.

To submit e-Tender, registration in the national e-GP System portal (<https://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. Further information and guidelines are available in the national e-GP portal and e-GP Help Desk (Email: helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

GD-380

(Mohammad Shakhawat Hossain)
Deputy General Manager